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STATE FOR S/CT, NEA/ARPI
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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: 2004 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 245841

1. Per reftel, below please find the draft report on Bahrain for the 2004 Patterns of Global Terrorism.

2. Begin text of draft report on Bahrain:

Bahrain

Bahrain is providing important support to our counterterrorism efforts, particularly efforts to block the financing of terror groups. Bahrain has continued to respond positively to requests for assistance to combat terror financing; it has frozen about \$18 million in terrorist-linked funds. In November 2004, Bahrain hosted the inaugural meeting of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENA FATF). Bahrain worked closely with FATF for several years to establish this regional body. Located in Bahrain, the new MENA FATF secretariat will promote the FATF 40 and 9 Special

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Recommendations to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Through hosting the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet and other activities, Bahrain contributes to coalition operations in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bahrain is an eager participant in the U.S. Government's Anti-Terrorism Assistance programs. Bahrain continued to provide intelligence and law enforcement cooperation. In 2004, Bahrain arrested, released, and re-arrested a group of terrorist suspects. The court released them for the period of the trial, which is ongoing.

- In June, the Government of Bahrain arrested six Bahrainis and placed one Bahraini under house arrest on suspicion of plotting terrorist attacks. All seven were released within two days.

- The Government of Bahrain re-arrested the six individuals in mid-July. The court ordered the release of two in mid-September and ordered the release of the remaining four in early November pending trial.

- Preliminary hearings for the case began in early December. The court referred to the Constitutional Court a motion contesting the constitutionality of the charges against the suspects.

- One of the four escaped the courtroom during a hearing in mid-September and was re-captured the same day. He was convicted in mid-November and is serving a six-month sentence.

Bahrain's lack of a domestic conspiracy law hampers its ability to intervene against suspected extremist plots. This could encourage terrorists to value Bahrain as a potential logistic haven. The Government is developing a draft amendment to the penal code addressing conspiracy to commit terrorist acts.

Bahrain is a party to seven of the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and is a signatory to the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

End text.

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